

Aponogeton bruggenii (Aponogetonaceae), a new
species from India

S. R. Yadav

Department of Botany, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa - 403 203
and

R. S. Govekar

Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur - 416 004

Abstract

A new species of *Aponogeton*, *A. bruggenii*, is described and illustrated.

During our explorations in Maharashtra in India recently, we collected an interesting specimen of *Aponogeton* which, on closer examination, turned out to be a new species. Named after Dr. van Bruggen, in honour of his contribution to our knowledge of this aquatic genus, it is described and illustrated here.

Aponogeton bruggenii Yadav & Govekar, *sp. nov.*

Aponogeton crispus Thunb. similis, sed in foisfere erectis emergentibus crassis fragilibus petiolo crasso acute - triangulato, ovariis azureis, fructibus minoribus, embryonibus minutis nonsulcatis cylindricis differt.

Typus: India, Maharashtra, Sindhudurg Dist., Nerurpar, about 9 km west to Kudal. 10. 9. 1992. *Yadav* 1 (holot CAL, iso BSI).

Similar to *Aponogeton crispus* Thunb., but differs in its nearly erect, emergent, thick, brittle leaves with stout, acutely triangular petiole, blue-coloured ovaries, smaller fruits and small, non-grooved cylindrical embryo.

Tuberiferous perennial herb, 10—30 cm in height. Tubers globose to elongate, 1—2 cm in diameter, 0.6—3 cm in length, crowned with fibrous roots. Leaves all emerging, semierect; petiole stout, thick, 5—25 × 0.3—0.4 cm. acutely triangular; leaf lamina thick, dark-green, brittle, 2—7.5 × 1.8—3.3 cm, oblong-ovate, cordate, truncate or rounded at base, entire along margin, acute or rounded at apex, 7—9 nerved, amphistomatic. Inflorescence one spiked; peduncle 20—30

Aponogeton bruggenii (Aponogetonaceae)

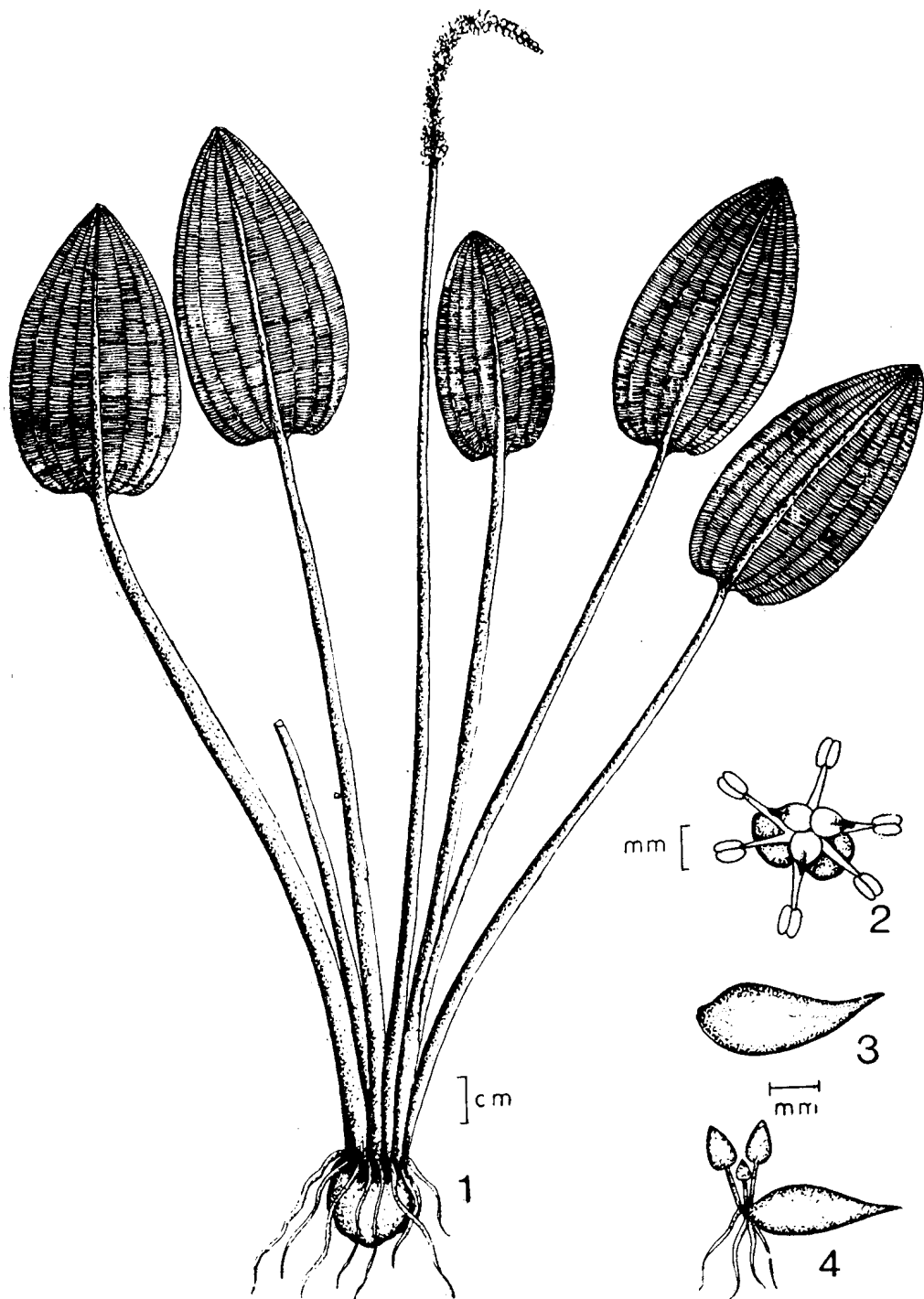


Fig. *Aponogeton bruggenii* Yadav & Govekar: 1. Plant; 2. Flower; 3. Fruit; 4. Embryo.

S. R. Yadav and R. S. Govekar

cm long, slender; spathe $ca\ 1.5 \times 0.6$ cm, caducous; spike 6–7 cm long densely flowered. Flowers pink, all around the axis. Tepals 2, pinkish-white, obovate; 1.5×1.5 mm in flowers, $ca\ 2 \times 1.5$ mm in fruits, 1-nerved. Stamens 6; filaments 2–2.2 mm long, anthers violet. Carpels 3, $ca\ 1 \times 0.5$ mm, smooth, blue in colour during flowering; ovules 2 in each carpel, basal; style short. Fruit $5-7 \times 2-3$ mm, beaked, smooth; seeds with simple testa; embryo $5-6 \times 1.5-1.8$ mm, cylindrical, plumule basal, not lying in a groove.

The species is found growing in paddy fields along the banks of Tarkarli river around Nerurpur. Each tuber produces more than one shoot and finally each shoot develops its own tuber forming a bunch of 2–10 tubers depending upon the age of the plant.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to H. W. E. Van Bruggen, The Netherlands, for his expert comments on the specimen, to J. Bogner, Munich, Germany, for encouragement, to J. F. Veldkamp, Rijksherbarium, Leiden for latin diagnosis, and M. K. Janarthanam for going through the manuscript. One of us (SRY) is grateful to UGC for providing financial assistance.